**Definition of poverty line**

1431. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the definitions of poverty line in rural and urban area, according to Planning Commission; and

(b) the definitions of National Poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Planning Commission has defined the poverty line as per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 per month in rural and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level. This corresponds to basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The state-specific poverty line are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and *inter-state* price differential.

(b) The National Poverty line is defined in terms of per capita expenditure per person per month separately for rural and urban areas and is based on the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons and poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all-India is obtained as the weighted average of the state-wise poverty ratio. The national Poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356.60 per capita per month in the rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in urban areas.

**BPL people in current and previous list**

†1432. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of people living below poverty line in the current list is less in relation to the previous list;

(b) if so, the reasons for such decrease in the number of people living below poverty line alongwith comparative details of previous and current lists;

(c) the separate details of standards issued by department of rural development for preparation of previous list and current list; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the number has been decreased in the current list due to distinct stipulated standards of previous list and current list of BPL families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development conducts the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census in association with the State Governments and UTs to identify the rural households living Below Poverty Line who could be assisted under its various programmes. On the basis of BPL Census 1997, the State/UTs identified 5.56 crore rural households as BPL. However, on the basis of BPL Census 2002, 5.43 crore BPL households have been identified. Some of the States like Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa, Sikkim, Lakshadweep and Puducherry are yet to report the outcome of such an exercise.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.